

HOUSE BILL 657

R2

0lr0463

By: **Delegates Carr and Bronrott**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2010

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Traffic Safety Is No Accident Act of 2010**

3 FOR the purpose of changing the term “accident” to the term “crash” in certain
4 provisions of law relating to motor vehicles; requiring the publishers of the
5 Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with the Department of
6 Legislative Services, to replace certain references in the Code to the term
7 “accident” with the term “crash” and to describe any such corrections in an
8 editor’s note in the Code; and generally relating to the use of the term “crash” in
9 the Annotated Code of Maryland.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

11 Article – Transportation

12 Section 20–101 through 20–107, 20–109, and 20–113 to be under the amended
13 title “Title 20. Vehicle Laws – Crashes and Crash Reports”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Transportation**

19 Title 20. Vehicle Laws – [Accidents] **CRASHES** and [Accident] **CRASH** Reports.

20 20–101.

21 (a) This title applies throughout this State, whether on or off a highway.

22 (b) All of the provisions of §§ 20–101 through 20–105 of this title apply to the
23 owner of any vehicle who is present when the [accident] **CRASH** occurs, whether or not
24 the owner is the driver.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 20-102.

2 (a) (1) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] **A CRASH** that
3 results in bodily injury to another person immediately shall stop the vehicle as close as
4 possible to the scene of the [accident] **CRASH**, without obstructing traffic more than
5 necessary.

6 (2) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] **A CRASH** that
7 results in bodily injury to another person immediately shall return to and remain at
8 the scene of the [accident] **CRASH** until the driver has complied with § 20-104 of this
9 title.

10 (b) (1) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] **A CRASH** that
11 results in the death of another person immediately shall stop the vehicle as close as
12 possible to the scene of the [accident] **CRASH**, without obstructing traffic more than
13 necessary.

14 (2) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] **A CRASH** that
15 results in the death of another person immediately shall return to and remain at the
16 scene of the [accident] **CRASH** until the driver has complied with § 20-104 of this title.

17 20-103.

18 (a) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] **A CRASH** that results
19 only in damage to an attended vehicle or other attended property immediately shall
20 stop the vehicle as close as possible to the scene of the [accident] **CRASH**, without
21 obstructing traffic more than necessary.

22 (b) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] **A CRASH** that results
23 only in damage to an attended vehicle or other attended property shall return to and
24 remain at the scene of the [accident] **CRASH** until he has complied with § 20-104 of
25 this title.

26 20-104.

27 (a) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] **A CRASH** that results
28 in bodily injury to or death of any person or in damage to an attended vehicle or other
29 attended property shall render reasonable assistance to any person injured in the
30 [accident] **CRASH** and, if the person requests medical treatment or it is apparent that
31 medical treatment is necessary, arrange for the transportation of the person to a
32 physician, surgeon, or hospital for medical treatment.

33 (b) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] **A CRASH** that results
34 in bodily injury to or death of any person or in damage to an attended vehicle or other

1 attended property shall give his name, his address, and the registration number of the
2 vehicle he is driving and, on request, exhibit his license to drive, if it is available, to:

3 (1) Any person injured in [an accident] **A CRASH**; and

4 (2) The driver, occupant of, or person attending any vehicle or other
5 property damaged in the [accident] **CRASH**.

6 (c) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] **A CRASH** that results
7 in bodily injury to or death of any person or in damage to an attended vehicle or other
8 attended property shall give the same information described in subsection (b) of this
9 section and, on request, exhibit his license to drive, if it is available, to any police
10 officer who is at the scene of or otherwise is investigating the [accident] **CRASH**.

11 (d) If a police officer is not present and none of the specified persons is in
12 condition to receive the information to which the person otherwise would be entitled
13 under this section, the driver, after fulfilling to the extent possible every other
14 requirement of § 20–102 of this title and subsection (a) of this section, immediately
15 shall report the [accident] **CRASH** to the nearest office of an authorized police
16 authority and give the information specified in subsection (b) of this section.

17 20–105.

18 (a) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] **A CRASH** that results
19 in damage to an unattended vehicle or other unattended property immediately shall
20 stop the vehicle as close as possible to the scene of the [accident] **CRASH**, without
21 obstructing traffic more than necessary.

22 (b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the driver of
23 each vehicle involved in [an accident] **A CRASH** that results in damage to an
24 unattended vehicle or other unattended property shall attempt to locate the driver,
25 owner, or person in charge of the damaged vehicle or other property and notify him of:

26 (1) His name and address;

27 (2) The registration number of the vehicle he is driving; and

28 (3) The name and address of the owner of that vehicle.

29 (c) If the driver, owner, or person in charge of the damaged vehicle or other
30 property cannot be located, leave in a conspicuous, secure place in or on the damaged
31 vehicle or other property a written notice giving the same information.

32 20–105.1.

1 (a) In addition to the information that is required to be given under §§
2 20–104 and 20–105 of this title, the driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] A
3 **CRASH** under either of those sections shall also give the following information:

4 (1) Name and address of the insurance carrier or other provider of
5 security for the person giving the information;

6 (2) Policy or other identifying number of the liability insurance or
7 other security, if it is available; and

8 (3) Name and address of the local insurance producer or local office of
9 the insurance carrier or other provider of security, if it is available.

10 (b) The information specified in subsection (a) of this section shall be given to
11 any person required to be notified under § 20–104 or § 20–105 of this title.

12 20–106.

13 (a) In addition to the other requirements of this title, if a motor vehicle
14 strikes and injures a domestic animal, the driver of the motor vehicle immediately
15 shall notify the appropriate State or local police of the [accident] **CRASH**.

16 (b) On receipt of notice under this section, the police shall notify the local
17 organization or governmental agency designated by the appropriate local government
18 to give such injured animals medical care.

19 20–107.

20 (a) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] A **CRASH** that results
21 in bodily injury to or death of any person shall, within 15 days after the [accident]
22 **CRASH**, report the matter in writing to the Administration.

23 (b) The driver of each vehicle involved in [an accident] A **CRASH** that results
24 in bodily injury or death of any person shall, within 15 days after the [accident]
25 **CRASH**, file with the report evidence of liability insurance or other security that
26 satisfies the requirements of Title 17 of this article.

27 (c) In addition to any other information required by the Administration, the
28 evidence required under subsection (b) of this section shall contain:

29 (1) The name and address of the insurance carrier or other provider of
30 security for the person making the report;

31 (2) The policy or other identifying number of the liability insurance or
32 other security; and

1 (3) The name and address of the local insurance producer for the
2 insurance carrier or other provider of security.

3 (d) If the driver is physically incapable of making the report or is unavailable
4 or refuses to do so, the Administration in its discretion may require instead a report of
5 the [accident] **CRASH** from the owner of the vehicle involved in the [accident] **CRASH**.
6 In that case, the owner shall report the matter and file the evidence of insurance as
7 required of the driver.

8 (e) The Administration may require the driver or owner of the vehicle to file
9 supplemental written reports if, in its opinion, the original report is insufficient.

10 (f) A written [accident] **CRASH** report is not required under this section:

11 (1) If the [accident] **CRASH** has been investigated by a police officer
12 and a report by the police officer has been filed with the Department of State Police; or

13 (2) From any person while that person is physically incapable of
14 making the report.

15 20–109.

16 If a person fails to file a written [accident] **CRASH** report as required by §§
17 20–107 and 20–113 of this title or to give correctly the information required by the
18 Administration in connection with the report, the Administration may suspend or
19 revoke:

20 (1) The license to drive of the person; and

21 (2) The registration of each vehicle owned by the person.

22 20–113.

23 (a) (1) The Administration shall prepare and, on request, supply to police
24 departments, sheriffs, and other appropriate agencies or individuals, forms for the
25 written [accident] **CRASH** reports required by § 20–107 of this title.

26 (2) The forms shall require sufficiently detailed information to disclose
27 the cause of the reported [accident] **CRASH**, the conditions then existing, and the
28 persons and vehicles involved.

29 (b) Each written [accident] **CRASH** report required by § 20–107 of this title
30 shall be made on the form that the Administration requires and shall contain all the
31 available information required by the report.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, with no further action
33 required by the General Assembly, the publishers of the Annotated Code of Maryland,

1 in consultation with and subject to the approval of the Department of Legislative
2 Services, shall replace in the Maryland Vehicle Law and throughout the Code, in a
3 manner consistent with the changes made in Section 1 of this Act, any use of the term
4 “accident” in reference to a vehicle– or traffic–related incident with the term “crash”,
5 and shall adequately describe any such correction in an editor’s note following the
6 section affected.

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2010.